

### Drumbeats of Black Africa. A Collection of African Proverbs

**O. Charles Okwelume**

In Africa, someone with great wisdom and knowledge of tradition is identified by his ability to intersperse speech with congruous proverbs. The importance and beauty of proverbs lie in the hidden essence of a language or a culture which they convey. But the proverbs are gradually becoming forgotten, and there is a paucity of written cultural sources. This collection attempts to redress this state of affairs, strengthen traditional communication, thus enhancing cultural development. Some 2,000 proverbs are included originating in various African cultures, organised alphabetically. O. Charles Okwelume is a scholar of culture and communications, and a published playwright.

9780295046 183pp 2004 Spectrum Books £6.95 /\$19.95 - Paperback, **Price: £6.95**



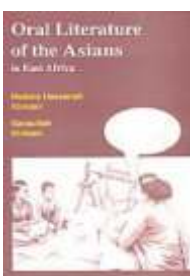
### Ifa. A Complete Divination

**Ayo Salami**

'Ifa', or Ifa divinity, approximately translates as a religion or divinity brought into the world by Orunmila, who is the custodian of the Deity, and moral, economic, linguistic, and metaphysical orders of the Yoruba people and its believers. Ifa verses reflect the spiritual content as well as the literary and scientific culture of the Yorubas, and exemplify the aesthetics of the Yoruba language, music and thought. This extensive compendium of Ifa verses is presented in modern Yoruba; and all the verses are accompanied by an English translation. This important publication is a gesture to make the Ifa poem more widely accessible to Yoruba and non-Yoruba audiences; and is a valiant effort to protect the sacred Ifa poem from extinction. The author is a specialist in oral and written aspects of Yoruba, known particularly for his radical proverbs, and identification with Yoruba as a language of wisdom.

9783603566 940pp 2002[publ. 2003] NIDD Publishing and Printing Ltd.

**£38.95 /\$63.95** - Paperback

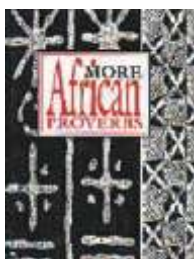


### Oral Literature of the Asians in East Africa

**Mubina Hassanali Kirmani & Sanaullah Kirmani**

A further new title in this series on East African oral literature, considering East African-Indian genres of oral literature and cultures, which developed as people from India/Asia migrated to East Africa. The authors discuss how these literatures have been a source of creativity and renewal; and how they give expression to the values, perceptions and aspirations of cultures. The book is organised into sections on the socio-cultural background and historical origins of the literatures; patterns of migration and settlement in East Africa; styles in Indian literature as preserved in East Africa, common symbols, images and figures of speech; the role of the artist in literary production; and performance of oral literature. The authors further provide and discuss narratives from many genres: e.g. myths, legends, animal tales, moral stories; tales of wisdom and wit; riddles, proverbs and songs. Many passages appear in the original languages, transcribed from primary sources - in particular Gujerati; also Sindhi, Punjabi, Cutchi, Hindi, Kondani - as well as in English translation.

9966250859 138pp 2002[publ. 2003] East African Educ. Publ. **£20.95 /\$29.95** - Paperback



### More African Proverbs

**Kofo Ademola**

The immense popularity of African Proverbs encouraged the publication of a second volume of proverbs originating from twenty-five African countries; and this second volume has since been revised and expanded to include around 250 proverbs. The proverbs are organised by themes: character, consequences, contentment, different strokes, deceit, experience, foresight, friendship and love, hard work, ignorance, necessity, patience, self control, self-delusion, truth and honesty, justice, unity, vigilance, and wisdom. All the proverbs are meant as 'words of wisdom', reflecting the philosophical, cultural and moral values of the cultures from which they are drawn; and are intended to provide pleasure to readers from all cultures.

9782030945 100pp 2002[1st publ. 2000] Bookcraft **£6.95 /\$11.95** - Cased

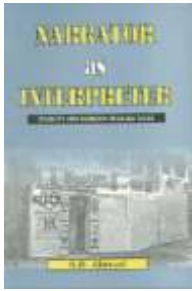


### Golden Quotes

**Bola Ige**

In 1994 Bola Ige kept a weekly column in the Tribune on Sunday during the regime of Sani Abacha. At the end of each column he included a short quote - words of wisdom from various sources over the ages - to lift the spirits of the readers. Here Ige's favourite quotations have been compiled here into a pocket-sized hardcover edition.

9782030228 163pp 2000 Bookcraft **£7.95 /\$14.95** - Cased

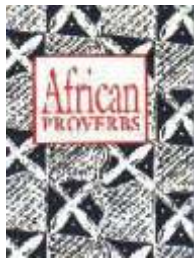


**Narrator as Interpreter: Stability and Variation in Hausa Tales**

**S.B. Ahmad**

Based on a corpus of 150 tales from the many towns and villages in the main Hausa states of Northern Nigeria. The author examines the stability of the form of the tales and variations in relation to narrative freedom and constraints, narrative performance techniques, the use of song, specialised vocabulary and audience enjoyment. He identifies the major themes and moral categories of the tales, and plot structure. The tales are shown to be a potent medium of preserving and transmitting traditional values, and a dynamic contemporary art form, despite the presence of alternative means of communication, and other cultural presences in Northern Nigeria. They are discussed in English translation in the main body of the work, and the original language versions are fully transcribed in the appendices.

9780291032 246pp 2002(1st pub. 1998) Spectrum Books **£20.95 /\$29.95** - Paperback



**African Proverbs**

**Kofo Ademola**

Proverbs enrich a language; they give in-depth meanings to words and have immense moral and cultural value. In the past a Yoruba person who could intersperse speech with apt proverbs was regarded as someone of great wisdom and culture. This conception of the value of proverbs was not limited to the Yoruba. Over 144 proverbs from all over Africa are included in this pocket-size book, and the country of origin of each is stated. Compiled from among those submitted to the BBC African Service, these 'Words of Wisdom' are organised by theme: patience, character, experience, friendship and love, hard work, wisdom, unity, truth and honesty, being prepared, happiness, self-deception, and time. All the proverbs are translated into English.

"...a delight to dip in to..." (LUCAS African Studies Bulletin)

9782030201 58pp 2000 Bookcraft **£5.95 /\$10.95** - Cased

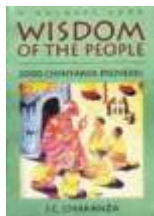


**Why the Elephant Has No Butt**

**Osonye Tess Onwueme**

"...Onwueme has created a universal and moral tale of corruption, politics, soical standing, and power. Why The Elephant Has No Butt captivates the enchantment of the spoken folktale and makes for a charming read..." (West Africa)

0966383729 168pp 2000 Africana Legacy Press **£7.95 /\$14.95** - Paperback

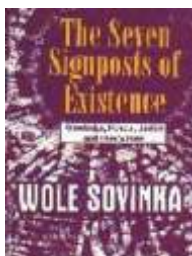


**Wisdom of the People. 2000 Chinyanja Proverbs**

**J.C. Chakanza**

There are few published collections of Chinyanja proverbs, many of which are in danger of being lost forever. This collection of proverbs and figurative expressions is an important contribution to the preservation of traditional wisdom from this Malawian language group. Chinyanja is becoming a principal lingua franca in Central Africa and the preservation of an integral part of its culture is preserved through recording the wisdom of the ages. English translations and explanations of proverbs are given.

9990816379 472pp 2000 Kachere Series **£21.95 /\$35.95** - Paperback

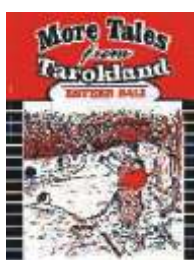


**The Seven Signposts of Existence. Knowledge, Honour, Justice and other Virtues**

**Wole Soyinka**

Wole Soyinka, Nobel prize-winner, here explores the ancient African system of belief, the 'Orisa'. He presents seven precepts he extracted and formalised from this religion, at a time when Nigerian academics argued it did not qualify for consideration as religion because it had no written scriptures. He encourages an understanding of this ancient religion, and the wisdom that it continues to offer. The seven precepts are presented with photos of carved statues of the gods.

978203018X 36pp 1999[publ. 2000] Bookcraft **£6.95 /\$11.95** - Cased



**More Tales from Tarokland**

**Esther Bali**

Taroh Folktales from the same author has been a very successful collection of folk stories from Nigeria. First published in 1991, this edition is now slightly corrected and re-published. Containing fifteen illustrated stories from Tarok, the simple style of the tales brings moonlight stories to entertain both the young and old alike. The collection is published to promote the culture and encouragement of the art of storytelling and the preservation of Nigerian folktales.

9780290176 94pp 1998 Spectrum Books **£6.95 /\$13.95** - Paperback



**Oral Literature of the Embu and Mbeere**  
**Ciarunji Chesaina**

This is a title from a Kenyan publisher who is publishing works of scholarship on the oral literature of the different groups in Kenya. The background is the rich repository in oral literature of the enduring wisdom and cultural values of the peoples of Africa. Within the proverbs and riddles, oral narratives and songs, philosophical and material cultures are captured and expressed. These ethnic-based oral literature titles seek to preserve this wisdom in the written form. The literature of the Embu and Mbeere of Eastern Kenya is fully explored here by a renowned scholar and writer on oral literature. She covers the historical and cultural background; genres of oral literature and their performance; form and style; and the social functions of oral literature. Literary texts examined are narratives, oral poetry, proverbs, and riddles and puzzles.

9966464077 211pp 1997[publ. 1998] East African Educ. Publ. **£17.95 /\$25.95** - Paperback

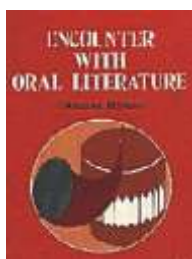


**Understanding Oral Literature**  
**Austin Bukonya & Wanjiku Mukabi Kabira et al**

This latest contribution of the Kenya Oral Literature Association to explorations in oral literature is multi-disciplinary in approach. It includes a wide-ranging selection of papers from twelve Kenyan literary scholars, linguists, educationists, material culture specialists, and historians. The central questions addressed are why oral literature should be taught, what should be included, and how it should be taught. Amongst the topics covered are translation problems, understanding proverbs, oral narrative as discourse, the use of audio visual aids in teaching, general and the politics of control, images of women in African oral literature, the relationship with material culture, and oral literature as part of oral traditions.

*"Recommended for college libraries at all levels." (Choice) "...a rich compendium of Eastern African lore that will be of value to professionals who are interested in the development of oral literature programs." (Library Lane) "Recommended for university and major public libraries and African literature collections." (The African Book Publishing Record)*

996684631X 102pp 1994[publ. 1995] University of Nairobi Press **£12.95 /\$17.95** - Paperback



**Encounter with Oral Literature**  
**Okumba Miruka**

The author has undertaken extensive research in oral literature and is the author of A Dictionary of Oral Literature. Here he uses an anthological approach to examine the various genres of oral literature both at the theoretical and analytical level. The anthology emphasises the areas of definition, classification, style and themes. The book is essentially an analysis of the four genres of riddles, proverbs, oral poetry and narratives. It introduces a new way of looking at oral literature, particularly in the case of riddles and proverbs which have received little analytical attention locally in terms of classifying them and discussing their styles and social functions. The author contends that the four genres exist in a continuum rather than as disparate phenomena.

*"...especially helpful to the literature instructor teaching an advanced secondary or undergraduate multicultural unit." (Library Lane) "Highly recommended for university and public libraries, and for all African literature collections." (The African Book Publishing Record)*

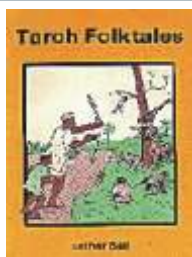
9966466916 194pp 1994 East African Educ. Publ. **£14.95 /\$21.95** - Paperback



**Zambian Proverbs**  
**Nyambe Sumbwa**

Proverbs encapsulate and express the culture of a people, or of the speakers of a particular language group. Their documentation into written language both preserves, and sheds light on the unique and common aspects of these cultures and languages. This book brings together proverbs from the seven most common Zambian languages: Bemba, Ki Kaonde, Lozi, Luyana, Luvale, Nyanja, and Chitonga. Each proverb is given in the original language with a literal English translation. Its meaning is explained and examples of usage, and contextual notes are provided. "...recommended for university and major public libraries..." The African Book Publishing Record

9982300717 84pp 1993[reissue 2004] Multimedia **£11.95 /\$19.95** - Paperback



**Taroh Folktales**  
**Esther Bali**

The Taroh (Yergam) people are from the middle belt area of Nigeria. These fifteen folktales from the region illustrate some of the beliefs and customs of the people. They also express the Taroh view of the spirit world, the human world and the animal world and how they relate to each other. Each tale is illustrated. The author is a teacher and she is also an established children's story book writer.

9782460532 95pp 1990[publ. 1991] Spectrum Books **£6.95 /\$13.95** - Paperback



### Yoruba Folktales Amos Tutuola

The author ranks as one of the foremost living traditional African storytellers - as recognised by the acclaim of his first book, *The Palmvine Drinkard*. This book includes seven folktales especially for young adults, but of universal appeal. Beautiful black and white ink drawings illustrate the tales whose cast of characters include humans, a goddess, an elephant woman, a boa constrictor and a shell-man.

*"...seven traditional Yoruba Folktales written for children...Tutuola delights us with his always original characters...original line drawings by Kola Adesokan add to the charm of this small collection...recommended both for children's libraries and academic collections of folklore." (The African Book Publishing Record)*

9781211865 56pp 1987 Ibadan University Press **£10.95 /\$19.95** - Paperback



### Oral Literature of the Masai N. Kipury

An attempt to record and preserve part of the history of the Maasai and the rich heritage of Maasai oral literature before it is forgotten, and to draw attention to its literary values and significance. The texts were collected during the 1970s, many of which having been passed down over generations. The author has also contributed a substantial number of narratives from her own childhood, playing the role of the 'oral artist'. All texts are quoted in the original Maa Language and are accompanied by English translations. The author provides an overview of the dominant features, context and style of Maasai literature, and then texts are organised by genre into fully referenced and edited chapters on myths and legends; man and animal tales; riddles; proverbs; songs, poetry, prayers and blessings.



### Myths & Legends of the Swahili Jan Knappert

This work intends to make Swahili mythology better known to the English-reading public and provide an insight into Swahili thought and literature. The collection contains a balance of secular stories and Islamic myths (when there is a distinction), which are organised by theme into sections on: creation myths; the prophets; the miracle of Mohammed; mysterious destinies; stories of wit and wisdom; 'the wives of women'; social satire; animal fables; travellers' tales; spirits and sorcerers; and 'just judgements'. The religious legends are sourced from Arabic scripts and unpublished materials from Swahili scholars since the 18th century; and the secular stories were collected by the author between Mombasa and Dar es Salaam in the 1960s. All the extracts have been translated into English; and are fully introduced and referenced to assist the reader unfamiliar with the Swahili culture. Jan Knappert is a distinguished Swahili and literature scholar who has been instrumental in the advance of the study of Swahili and other African literary traditions. He has lectured at African and European universities; and has also translated and anthologised Swahili love poetry, epics and sagas, Islamic poetry, and myths and legends of Morocco and the Congo.

9966463046 212pp 1979 East African Educ. Publ. **£10.95 /\$19.95** - Paperback